



NH DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

DIVISION FOR CHILDREN YOUTH AND FAMILIES

FOSTER CARE PROGRAM

RESOURCE PARENT PRE-SCREENING TOOL

The role of a resource parent for children and teens in foster care can be a rewarding and challenging experience. The purpose of this screening tool is to assist you in making an informed decision about becoming a resource parent. ***Please note: applicants who are couples should complete separate screening tools.***

The questionnaire consists of four sections. However, not all sections may be applicable to your situation:

- Part 1 reviews applicant eligibility to serve as a resource parent.
- Part 2 examines applicant attitudes and beliefs.
- Part 3 is for married couples or those in a committed relationship.
- Part 4 is for applicants who have children in the home.

CONTACT INFORMATION							
	Full Name						
	Preferred Phone						
	Email address						
	I am applying <input type="checkbox"/> Alone <input type="checkbox"/> As a couple			My partner's name is			
	Street Address		Quadrant	Apt.	Ward	City	State
						NH	

PART 1: ELIGIBILITY

If you do not, meet all of the requirements below, you are not eligible to serve as a resource parent in the State of NH at this time. We invite you to reapply when your situation changes.

I am at least 21 years old	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
I physically live in the New Hampshire	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
I can provide at least five references (relatives and friends)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
I am able to support my household financially	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
I am in good physical and mental health	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
I have no substantiated findings of child abuse or neglect*	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
I have no criminal convictions*	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Everyone in my household is in agreement about fostering a child	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
My home has space for children to sleep separately from adults and from opposite-sex children over age 5	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
I have the time and ability to provide good care, guidance, and support to children or teens	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
I am willing to commit to the 8-week pre-service training via online	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

***Note:** Local and federal law require NH DCYF to get child protection register and local and federal police clearances. If you have history that may prevent you from acquiring these clearances, please let us know so that we can discuss your eligibility in greater detail.

PART 2: ATTITUDES AND BELIEFS

This series of questions and statements will assess your attitude and beliefs about being a resource parent and parenting children in foster care.

Response	4 = Strongly Agree 3 = Agree 2 = Strongly Disagree 1 = Disagree 0 = Not Sure
	1. If I start this process, I will commit to finish the process.
	2. I do not have a difficult time adjusting to change.
	3. I value diversity and am open to learning about other cultures.
	4. I can foster a child who has a different religion than me.
	5. I am willing to make time for, and share my home with, children in New Hampshire.
	6. As a resource parent, I am willing to make some personal sacrifices for a child in my care.
	7. A child will not make me whole.
	8. If I am depressed, I know that having a child will not make me feel better.
	9. I am comfortable and enjoy working with children.
	10. I will treat all children in my home with dignity and respect.
	11. As a resource parent, my task is to ensure the child feels accepted and valued in my home.
	12. I want to make a foster child's life less stressful and more meaningful.
	13. Trauma impacts children in foster care socially, emotionally, and physically.
	14. I believe that more than love is needed to care for a child.
	15. I want to know the foster child's service providers and participate in the child's case planning.
	16. I'll be good at advocating and getting services a foster child might need.
	17. The progress a child makes (even if it's slow) will keep me going as a resource parent.
	18. I believe that a child needs structure regardless of their age.
	19. I can accept anger from a child without taking it personally.
	20. I will not personalize a youth being disrespectful.
	21. I'm able to foster a child who rejects me.
	22. I am a lot of fun, but I can be firm when necessary.
	23. I can discipline a child without using corporal punishment.
	24. I will not speak negatively about a foster child's birth parent(s).
	25. I will help my foster child continue a relationship with birth parent(s).
	26. I will work with the birth parents even if I know they hurt the child.
	27. I will ease a child's fears about going back home to live with birth parents.
	28. I can handle a foster child going home if I believe the child will be cared for.
	29. I recognize that the child may leave one day and that is okay. I am able to help a foster child prepare for where they're going to live next.
	30. I know that there is a lot to learn about parenting children in foster care and I want to begin the learning process now.
Your Score	Total Possible Score = 120

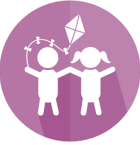
PART 3: TWO PARENT HOUSEHOLD

Please answer these questions if you are married or living with another adult in a committed, intimate relationship. If you are not currently married or cohabitating, please go to **Part 4**.

Response	4 = Strongly Agree 3 = Agree 2 = Strongly Disagree 1 = Disagree 0 = Not Sure	
	1. My partner strongly supports my fostering efforts.	
	2. My partner and I have similar beliefs about how to parent a foster child.	
	3. My partner and I have similar views on how to discipline young children.	
	4. My partner and I are used to talking things over every day.	
	5. My partner and I have a stable relationship although we were raised differently.	
	6. My partner and I share household responsibilities.	
	7. My partner and I will back each other up in parenting.	
	8. My partner and I are used to solving problems together.	
	Your Score	Total Possible Score = 32

PART 4: CHILDREN IN THE HOUSEHOLD

Please answer these questions if you have birth, adopted or step children. If you do not have children, please go to the **Scoring** section.

	How many birth or adoptive children do you have?	
	How many birth or adoptive children live with you?	
	How many step-children do you have?	
	How many step-children live with you?	
	Are you applying to become a kinship caregiver for a relative child or children?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

Response	4 = Strongly Agree 3 = Agree 2 = Strongly Disagree 1 = Disagree 0 = Not Sure	
	1. I do not spank my children.	
	2. My children want to have a foster brother or sister.	
	3. My children are able to deal with a foster child with serious challenges.	
	4. My children are not worried about getting enough attention when foster children move in.	
	5. My children are able to handle foster children coming into and leaving our home.	
	6. I will treat my birth, adopted and foster children as equals.	
	7. I will work to ensure my birth/adopted children get along with foster children in my home.	
	8. A foster child will not be treated like a stranger in my home with my family.	
	Your Score	Total Possible Score = 32

SCORING

If you completed Part 2 only and received a score of:	
108 - 120	Welcome, you are ready to embark on the process of becoming a resource parent.
96 - 107	You are a good candidate to foster/adopt and we will partner with you to help you understand more about children in foster care.
Below 96	Your attitude and belief systems are not consistent with being an effective resource parent. If you are willing to modify some of your attitudes and beliefs, and you can see the areas where you need to change and can make the change, you may be a good candidate for being a resource parent in the future.
If you completed Parts 2 and 3, OR Parts 2 and 4, and received a combined score of:	
137 - 152	Welcome, you are ready to embark on the process of becoming a resource parent.
121 - 136	You are a good candidate to foster/adopt and we will partner with you to help you understand more about children in foster care.
Below 121	Your attitude and belief systems are not consistent with being an effective resource parent. We invite you to take some time to think about your current attitudes and beliefs as they align with the responsibilities involved with being an effective resource parent.
If you completed Parts 2, 3 and 4 and received a combined score of:	
165 - 184	Welcome, you are ready to embark on the process of becoming a resource parent.
147 - 164	You are a good candidate to foster/adopt and we will partner with you to help you understand more about children in foster care.
Below 147	Your attitude and belief systems are not consistent with being an effective resource parent. We invite you to take some time to think about your current attitudes and beliefs as they align with the responsibilities involved with being an effective resource parent.

Thank you for completing this pre-screening tool. We hope that this has helped you and your family decide if you are ready to start the NH Resource family journey. Please feel free to share this with the Foster Care Inquiry Specialist or your assigned Home Study Practitioner. We will be happy to discuss this tool and answer any further questions you have.

If you are ready to apply, go to: [DCYF \(nh.gov\)](https://www.dcyf.nh.gov) and start your journey today

If you have more questions, sign up for an Informational Session today at
[Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

Or email us at: FosterNH@dhhs.nh.gov

Or call (603) 271-4711

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